

Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet); or fifteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1869.

REMOVAL OF THE TRACKS ON BROAD STREET.

The efforts made to create in Philadelphia the most magnificent avenue in the world, on the one hand, and to mar and deface it, on the other, form one of the most interesting and exciting chapters of our local history. In the plan of the city there are unfortunately but two streets of sufficient width to correspond with the modern ideas of magnificence and grandeur—Market and Broad. By common consent the former is given up entirely to trade and traffic, and while the building lots on either side are lined with stores and warehouses, the centre is traversed not only by a double passenger railway track, but by a freight track with numerous cars. This is but one of many streets dedicated to commerce, and with each new year magnificent new stores spring up in regions previously occupied exclusively by dwelling-houses. Every true Philadelphian is delighted with these evidences of progress and unmitigated proofs of the increase of trade and business activity. But meanwhile it must not be forgotten that art, science, architecture, and, if you will, fashion, have irresistible claims to municipal attention, and that no city can be a true modern metropolis which does not present numerous attractions pleasing to the eye and grateful to cultivated tastes, as well as the commercial facilities which appeal solely to sordid instincts. Many a Western or Southern merchant, who lengthens his journey by good roads to New York, is attracted there, unconsciously to himself, by what he knows or has heard of the splendors of Fifth Avenue and the beauties of the Central Park, even while he forces himself to believe that he is influenced solely by commercial motives. But it is not for strangers only, or chiefly, that a grand central avenue of art and fashion should be created in Philadelphia. The population now rapidly approaching one million souls, which, in the natural order of things, will be swelled to twice that number before another generation passes away, are deeply interested in all that pertains to the decorative arts. All classes are equally interested. While the successful business man needs a splendid home not far from his counting-house, the toiling masses should not be denied the pleasure of gazing upon a striking and concentrated display of the wealth they cannot amass, and share at least with their eyes the magnificence which is founded upon their steady labors. Public opinion has dedicated Broad street to this purpose. The advances of commerce in every other direction will be joyfully approved, but its obstructions here are ungenerous and annoying. Millions have already been spent to decorate and improve Broad street, to erect splendid dwellings, to lay down the Nicolson pavement, to plant beautiful trees, and to line its sidewalks with public buildings of the most imposing character. Many millions more will soon be expended for similar purposes, as church after church points its tall spires upwards to the heavens, as the Masonic Temple approaches completion, and as the projects of various influential societies are matured, until the whole street is occupied by palatial residences or still grander structures, and its entire length is rendered the grandest drive in the world. These improvements have progressed with sufficient rapidity to attract great attention and commendation, and to clearly foreshadow the coming glory of this great thoroughfare. But they have been constantly obstructed in the most ungracious and unjust manner. At one time there was great danger that the whole street was to be occupied by a double line of new railway tracks, and the work was at one period actually commenced. Then the proposal to remove the old freight tracks encountered steady opposition. At last the first of April was fixed definitely as the period for their demolition. Then City Councils were persuaded, in a weak moment, to consent to a postponement for a few months of this improvement, and now it appears that during this period of grace the Legislature has been insidiously asked to pass a law permitting the tracks to deface the street and obstruct the comprehensive plans for its development for an indefinite period. As the wishes and welfare of the citizens of Philadelphia are the last things the Legislature ever thinks of, the Senate readily consented to this scheme, and the House also adopted it, but not finally, it appears, as a motion to reconsider it was sustained. Councils, however, were wide awake, and indignant at the breach of faith involved in the movement of the refractory property holders, they promptly rescinded their ordinance authorizing delay, and rapid workmen were ready to carry out their prompt decision before the ink was dry on the Mayor's signature. This coup d'etat is decidedly creditable to the city fathers, and it will be cordially sustained by the masses of all parties. The Legislature may as well abandon the attempt to perpetrate another glaring outrage upon the people of Philadelphia, and Broad street, rescued from another peril, will be improved more rapidly than ever.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the City Councils, who actively exerted themselves to thwart the infamous Legislative scheme. While all who co-operated in this movement deserve the commendation of their fellow-citizens, Mr. A. H. Francis has been specially distinguished for his unswerving zeal, and the final triumph of the people is largely due to the unflinching courage and activity he displayed, in common with some of his faithful colleagues. City Councils have now glory enough for one day, and their constituents will gladly overlook a few shortcomings when they remember their action in the Broad street question.

ANDREW JACKSON'S LEGACY. CARE SCHURZ, the new Missouri Senator, in his argument against the bill repealing the Tenure-of-Office act, referred to the question of a reform in the civil service of the country as one of the greatest problems presented to the statesmen of the present day. The main source of the corruption and inefficiency by which our present system is both degraded and disgraced, Senator Schurz urged, "was not to be found in the exercise of the arbitrary power of removal by the Executive, but in the system of appointments of public officers at random from personal or political favoritism, or upon the principle that to the victors belong the spoils." He then argued that, while such a system is continued, a law like the Tenure-of-Office act would in all probability be productive of more harm by fettering the action of an exemplary President in the way of removing incompetent officers, than the good to be accomplished by preventing improper removals by a President of the opposite character.

This argument brings before us the fundamental principle of the modern school of politics, that "to the victors belong the spoils." For this maxim and the disgraceful system which is based upon it, the country is indebted to that most vindictive and obstinate of all vindictive and obstinate statesmen, Andrew Jackson. His services to the country in the war of 1812 and in various other contests were so pre-eminent, that his elevation to the Presidency followed as a matter of course. The national policy favored by him was comparatively of trifling account. If Henry Clay had been enabled to base his aspirations to the Chief Magistracy upon such a military record as that of Jackson, he would not have been forced to comfort his disappointed and embittered spirit with such unsatisfactory philosophy as was contained in the memorable declaration that he "had rather be right than be President." Harrison and Taylor, both members of essentially the same political school to which Clay belonged, rode into power upon their war-horses; while Scott's defeat in 1852 was owing, in great measure, to his garrulousness, and the partial effect of an apology for a military record which Pierce was able to present.

For this reason we are inclined to regard the legacy bequeathed us by Andrew Jackson as one of those dispensations of Providence which are impossible of solution. The character of "Old Hickory," and the terrific contest which preceded his first election as President, fully prepare the historical student for the inauguration of a policy of proscription and revenge such as he indulged in, although it was directly opposed to all the previous traditions and customs of the country. During his term of eight years, Washington exercised the power of removal nine times only. Six of these removals were from collectorships of no special importance, the remaining three office-holders upon whose necks the axe fell being a district surveyor, a vice-consul, and a foreign minister. In the latter case—that of Charles C. Pinckney, who had been sent as our representative to Paris—the cause of the removal was a dislike which the French Directory entertained towards the victim; and in all the other cases there was substantial cause assigned, without any regard to political views. John Adams strictly followed the example set by the first occupant of the Presidential chair, making but nine removals during his four years of power, all of them from unimportant positions, and none because of political antagonism. Jefferson was obliged, by the circumstances of his position, to make thirty-nine removals in the course of eight years, but he repeatedly asserted that not a single one of them was prompted by political opposition. Five removals were made by Madison, nine by Monroe, and two only by John Quincy Adams, making a total of only seventy-three cases in which the President of the United States exercised the power of direct removal, from the establishment of the Government in 1789 to the accession of Andrew Jackson in 1829.

Jack's biographer informs us that, up to the time of the delivery of his inaugural address, it was universally believed that the new President would not materially depart from the policy of his predecessors in this respect. But the inaugural contained a mysterious reference to a contemplated "reform," and before a half-day had elapsed after its delivery, it was known throughout the capital that this "reform" meant a wholesale violation of vengeance upon the host of Federal office-holders who had opposed Jackson's election, without any regard to their honesty, capacity, or efficiency. He was soon found to be as good as his word, and before the close of the year 1829 six hundred and ninety removals from office, on political grounds alone, were made, according to the statement of Colonel Thomas H. Benton, while other authorities place the number as high as two thousand during the same period! Among the most noticeable of these was the case of General Harrison, who had been residing at Bogota but a few weeks as Minister to the infant Republic of Colombia, but who was recalled by Jackson just four days after his inauguration, simply because the former soldier had mildly censured the course of the latter in the Seminole war years before.

In this way the advent of the hero of New Orleans upon the Presidential stage witnessed the inauguration of a system of proscription which has continued to the present day, resulting in degrading our civil service into the most corrupt and inefficient now tolerated in the civilized world. But the country has good reason to hope that President Grant will confer a lasting benefit upon the country by the establishment of a different system, in which honesty, capacity, and efficiency shall take the place of the opposite and heretofore prevalent qualifications for office under the Federal Government.

THE RECALL OF REVERDY. PRESIDENT GRANT has done what was expected of him by recalling Minister Reverdy Johnson from the Court of St. James. Secretary Fish, at the instance of the President, has signified to the great after-dinner treaty maker that his resignation will be accepted as soon as tendered—a polite and diplomatic way of telling Reverdy that his services are no longer required, and giving him an opportunity to retire gracefully without waiting to be kicked out of office. Mr. Johnson has apparently allowed himself to be beguiled into the belief that his mission to England had been an entire success in every particular, in spite of the rejection of his treaty by the Senate and the denunciations of his course by the press and people. Even at this late hour, when the eyes of the English people have been opened to his real character, and it has been fully demonstrated that he is in no sense a representative of the people or Government of the United States, and that his silly behavior has only served to widen the breach between the two countries, he continues to figure at the festive board and to deliver senile post-prandial outpourings the same as ever.

We have happily got rid of one Johnson, it is to be hoped forever, and now Reverdy is to follow Andrew into retirement, and trouble us no more. For this relief much thanks; and while we hope and believe that President Grant will appoint a competent minister to the Court of St. James, it is a satisfaction to know that he can scarcely under any circumstances send a more unfit man than the one whose resignation has just been requested.

SPRAGUE'S QUIETUS. SENATOR SPRAGUE, of Rhode Island, has not made a very imposing figure since he has been in Congress; on the contrary, he has been content to remain quietly in the background, "a looker-on in Vienna." Of late, however, Sprague

has been aroused by the direful condition of the country, and has apparently become impressed with the idea that he is the only man capable of saving us from impending ruin. He has therefore electrified himself, not the Senate or the country, by several extraordinary speeches, which might do credit to some of the members of the junior class of our High School. Making a speech is an event of some moment in Sprague's career, and he therefore was careful to prepare the Senate and the country by circulating rumors and hinting darkly as to the tremendous character of his performances. But, alas! it is the old story of the mountain that brought forth a mouse, and Senator Sprague was delivered of a very small and insignificant mouse indeed, yesterday. His speech was a rambling disquisition about everything in general and nothing in particular, a modest depreciation of himself and a grand glorification of Sprague, and with a *négligé* which is perfectly charming, he acknowledged that, not having sufficient ability himself, he had procured the services of some one else to write out his remarks, although he insisted that the ideas were all his own—and well they might be.

Mr. Sprague's colleague, Senator Anthony, made a reply, which we fear will effectually deter that gentleman from making any more speeches, and he administered an effectual quietus by classing Sprague with Colorado Jewett and George Francis Train, and by asserting, amid the laughter of the Senators and the galleries, that notwithstanding the dreadful condition of our national affairs, with Mr. Sprague as a leader, Mr. Colorado Jewett in diplomacy, and Mr. George Francis Train in general statesmanship, there was still hope for the country. The only objection we have to this classification is that it is too complimentary to Sprague, and we are anxious to hear what Jewett and Train have to say about admitting him to companionship with them.

IT SEEMS difficult, if not impossible, to set a limit to the misconduct of the present Legislature. Each new day adds a new act of infamy to its disgraceful record, and if the avowed object of its sessions was to thwart the interests of the people of Philadelphia, it could scarcely adopt more unjust and odious measures than those which meet its approval. We notice that the *Age* unites with the Republican press of the city in strongly condemning the action of the Democratic Senators who voted for the Cattle bill, and it confesses that "the masses of the party in this city are justly excited and indignant at the conduct of some of their representatives." Yesterday the bill postponing the removal of the railway tracks on Broad street was rushed through the Senate, and subsequently passed in the House, but there a motion for its reconsideration fortunately prevailed. Aside from these recent acts, the spectacle of grave legislators suddenly changing the laws of the State in reference to the commutation of punishment for murder, at the bidding of the friends of a convicted felon, was to the last degree revolting and disgraceful. It may or may not be right to allow the Governor to commute the death penalty, but it was certainly wrong for the men who misrepresent the State to suddenly authorize such a radical change in criminal jurisprudence for the avowed purpose of preventing the execution of a condemned prisoner.

THE FINE ARTS.—This evening Messrs. James S. Earle & Sons will give a private view at their gallery of a very superior collection of American works of art, and to-morrow and after the exhibition will be opened free to the public. A number of superior works will be included in this collection, and there will be several features which will make the exhibition unusually interesting. One of the most important pictures will be Bierstadt's "Vesuvius in Eruption." This work was executed last year from sketches made upon the spot, and it is said to be a remarkably showy and attractive painting. The "Yo Semite Valley," by Hill, of Boston, is another large picture that has been favorably commented upon by the critics of other cities, and it is said to be superior to Bierstadt's rendition of the same subject. "Good Words," by Constant Mayer, the painter of "Convalescence," "Love's Melancholy," and other pictures that have been extensively popular will also be an attraction. All of these pictures are being chromo-lithographed, and Messrs. Earle & Sons will take subscriptions for copies. In addition to these, the exhibition will contain a new work by Xanthus Smith, "The Fight Between the Monitor and the Merrimack," which the artist witnessed, and by Hamilton, Wilcox, Moran, and others.

One of the most attractive features of the exhibition will be a number of the most popular chromo-lithographs of the day side by side with the originals, so that the public will be able to judge of the faithfulness of the copies. Those who are interested in chromo-lithography will derive pleasure from the inspection of a volume which explains the whole process at a glance. Eastman Johnson's illustration of Whittier's "Barefoot Boy" is exhibited in a dissected state; that is, an impression from each separate stone is given, and on the opposite page the effect produced by the successive printings, thus showing the gradual growth of the picture under the lithographic artist's hands. Most persons have a general idea as to the manner in which these pictures are produced; and all who are at all interested in the subject will be pleased to see the process thus clearly explained.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

SPECIAL CARD. This is to certify that I am no longer in the Blank Book, Printing, and Stationery business; that my successors are my son William, and James D. Huntington, trading as WILLIAM ALEXANDER & CO. No. 144 SOUTH THIRD STREET, for whom the patronage of my former customers is respectfully solicited. JOHN ALEXANDER, Formerly of No. 134 South Fourth street.

"A PENNY SAVED IS EQUAL TO TWO EARNED."—The time to save money is when you own it, and the way to save it is by depositing a portion of it weekly in the old FRANKLIN SAVING FUND, No. 134 S. FOURTH STREET, below Chestnut. Money in large or small amounts received, and five per cent. interest allowed. Open daily from 9 to 5, and on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock. CYRUS CADWALLADER, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE FRANKLIN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, April 8, 1869. At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, a semi-annual dividend of SIX PER CENT. and an extra dividend of TEN PER CENT. were declared on the Capital Stock for the last six months, payable to the Stockholders, or their legal representatives, on and after the 15th inst., clear of taxes. W. W. McALLISTER, Secretary.

EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART EXECUTED BY WOMEN. AT HASELTINE'S GALLERY, NO. 1125 CHESTNUT STREET. Open during the day, and Monday evenings, April 1st to 4th inst. Admission, 25 cents. 3 1/2 1/2

ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—THE MOST popular and palatable Bitters in the market. To persons having weak or thin blood, or suffering from dyspepsia, these Bitters insure a speedy relief. Carefully prepared on strict scientific principles by WILLIAM L. LILLIE, Chemist. Sold by JOHNSTON, HOLLOWAY & CO., No. 602 ARCH STREET, and druggists everywhere. 24 bottles.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP. A TABLET OF WRIGHT'S ALCOHOLIC OILY Glycerin. It is delicately fragrant, transparent, and incompatible as a Toilet Soap. For sale by all Druggists. R. & G. A. WRIGHT, No. 624 CHESTNUT STREET.

NOTICE.—I AM NO LONGER EXERCISING THE PROFESSION OF DENTIST in Philadelphia. Persons wishing teeth extracted absolutely without pain by fresh Nitrous Oxide Gas, will find me at No. 1427 WALNUT STREET. Charges suit the case. D. F. R. THOMAS.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA., April 8, 1869. TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. All Stockholders, as registered on the Books of this Company on the 30th day of April, 1869, will be entitled to subscribe for 25 Per Cent. of their respective interests in New Stock at Par, as follows: First, Fifty per cent. at the time of subscription, between the 15th day of May, 1869, and the 30th day of June, 1869. Second, Fifty per cent. between the 15th day of November, 1869, and the 31st day of December, 1869; or, if Stockholders should prefer, the whole amount may be paid up at the time of subscription, and each installment so paid shall be entitled to a pro-rata of the Dividend that may be declared on all shares of interest in New Stock at Par, as follows: First, Fifty per cent. at the time of subscription, between the 15th day of May, 1869, and the 30th day of June, 1869. 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